

Appl. No. 10/070,616
Response dated February 5, 2004
Reply to Office Action of January 9, 2004

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to enter and approve the claim amendments, and reconsider the requirement for restriction between Group I and Group II claims.

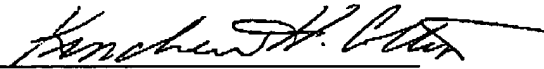
The amended claims 7 and 9 correct improperly multiply dependent claims within Group I. New claims 33 and 34 are added to provide coverage for subject matter presented in prior to the amendments to claims 7 and 9. Also, amended claims 10 and 12 retain their original claim scope while replacing certain well-known typographical symbols with words. It is intended that the amendments do not contract claim scope and do not introduce new matter.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the requirement for restriction between Group I claims 1-9 and the Group II claims 10-32. This U.S. national phase application presented originally claims 1-32 and the PCT authority found a common invention and interposed no unity of invention objection. The PCT authority was able to search the claimed subject matter and was able to issue a Search Report. This is of record herein. Consequently, it is respectfully submitted that the requirement for restriction be withdrawn to be consistent with determinations by another searching authority and to implement the salutary recommendations of MPEP 803. Subject to this traverse, Applicants elect Group I claims 1-9. Applicants furthermore respectfully submit absent reconsideration that the Examiner re-join all claims upon indication of allowable subject matter.

Favorable action on the merits is earnestly, but respectfully, solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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